

Surf

effecting planarization by polishing at least said second insulation film by chemical mechanical polishing using an abrasive liquid including a surfactant, and introducing impurities into said first insulation after said polishing step.

REMARKS

Claims 3-14 and 16-27 are pending. The specification is amended to correct minor informalities noted upon applicants' review. Claims 1, 2, 15, 28 and non-elected claims 29 and 30 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 3-11, 13 and 16-26 are amended.

Claims 9 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 9 and 20 have been amended to clarify the wording objected by the Examiner.

It is respectfully submitted that the prior art rejections have been rendered moot by the above amendments. In particular, the allowable claims have been rewritten in independent form. In addition, the dependent claims have been amended to depend from the allowable claims. As such, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by applicants would be desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned attorney.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN, HATTORI,
MCLELAND & NAUGHTON


Stephen G. Adrian
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 32,878

Attachment: Amendment Transmittal

Atty. Docket No. 970813
1725 K Street, N.W., Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20006
Tel: (202) 659-2930
Fax: (202) 887-0357
SGA/arf